

FROM THE ARMY ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE

A World Changed



On September 11, the United States entered a new era. Without warning, we became part of a world where terrorists strike and kill innocent people on American soil because they hate us and what we represent. These evildoers intended to fill us with fear, and steal our safety and security. They failed.

As we recall the madness of that day, we also remember the extraordinary courage of our firefighters, police, and emergency medical teams. We remember the generosity of Americans who lined up to donate blood, volunteer their services, and offer other types of assistance. We remember people throughout the world who shared our shock, sadness, and readily gave us their support. The evildoers intended to bring us to our knees and change our way of life. They failed.

Instead of retreating to our homes, Americans went to work. We filled our houses of worship. We showed the world how proud we are to be Americans. We brought flags out of our closets and put them on display. We sang *God Bless America*, and the world joined us in a huge chorus. The evildoers intended to isolate us and keep us from going about our normal business. They failed.

They united Americans with all others in the civilized world and sparked a war of good against evil. It is a difficult war to fight. Evil has no army, no navy, no air force. It hides in the bustle of big cities and the shadows of rock formations and caves. Its only face belongs to its elusive leader. It has no borders. Its network extends to some 60 nations. Still, good will prevail.

With the longest history in special operations and the greatest number of forces, the U.S. Army has an integral role in this global campaign against evil. Our goal is the complete destruction of international terrorism—nothing less. And, we are ready. Today's Army is prepared.

Tomorrow's Army will be even more prepared. As our transformation continues, we will become even more capable of battling terrorism and other asymmetric threats. In fact, our work has taken on an even greater importance—and urgency—since September 11. On that day, we saw our future more clearly. We saw a future where cities are battle-grounds and innocent people are targets, a future where adversaries possess the capability to wage war on American soil, and a future where deterrence is no longer sufficient.

Relative to this ominous future, we know the Army's Transformation Campaign Plan is right on target. It needs little, if any, alteration. In fact, it needs to be accelerated. This edition of *Army AL&T* magazine highlights our plans for the Army's Objective Force, our long-term development effort. This future force will maximize advances in technology and organizational adaptations to revolutionize land-power capabilities. As the Army works to develop and acquire the technologies for the Objective Force, the Legacy and Interim Forces will ensure Army readiness. Ours is a comprehensive plan to become a lighter, more mobile, more sustainable, no-less-lethal force. It's tailor-made for our uncertain world.

As we go forward, we are ever-mindful of the great sacrifices of the brave men, women, and children who died so needlessly on September 11. We continue to keep them and their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers. We hope that the complete destruction of international terrorism will somehow help to ease their pain.

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